

**Claims**

1. Airbag cover (10) for an airbag (1), which is provided within a receiving space (16) of an interior panelling (3) of a vehicle, comprising a flap (2) which is opened when the airbag (1) is triggered and keeps it closed in the closed state via predetermined breaking regions or points (4), wherein the flap (2) is articulated to a panelling part (6) of the interior panelling (3) via a connecting element (5), characterized in that the connecting element (5) comprises at least one hinge (7) with at least two hinge axes (x, y), which is suited to divert part of the operating forces ( $F_B$ ) of the airbag (1), which act in the opening direction (B) at the start of the opening phase of the airbag (1), into a force ( $F_Q$ ) transverse to the opening direction (B).
2. Airbag cover (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that the hinge (7) is formed from a material resistant to tensile forces.
3. Airbag cover (10) according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the panelling part (6) and the flap (2) each comprise a reinforcement plate (8) which is directly connected to the hinge (7).
4. Airbag cover (10) according to claim 3, characterized in that the hinge (7) is formed in one piece with the reinforcement plates (8), and the hinge axes (X, Y) are formed as predetermined bending points in the sheet metals (7, 8).
5. Airbag cover (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the hinge (7) is formed as a retaining strap hinge made from metal or plastic.

6. Airbag cover (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the hinge (7) is formed from metal weave or plastic weave.
7. Airbag cover (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the separation between the parallel hinge axes (X, Y) is adjusted to the thickness of the panelling part (6).
8. Airbag cover (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the width of the hinge (7) is adjusted to generate predetermined transverse forces ( $F_Q$ ) within a temperature range in which the airbag (1) is used.
9. Airbag cover (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least one opening (9) is provided in the material of the hinge (7), which controls the transverse forces ( $F_Q$ ) acting on the flap (2) in the opening phase of the airbag cover (10).
10. Airbag cover (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a carrier layer (12) is provided which has a free space (11) at least in parts of the region of the hinge (7).
11. Airbag cover (10) according to claim 10, characterized in that the free space (11) in the region of the hinge (7) is provided alternately on different sides relative to the reinforcement plate (8) on the panelling part (6) and the flap (2), for controlling the strength of the transverse forces ( $F_Q$ ) acting in the opening phase to tear the predetermined tearing regions (4).

12. Airbag cover (10) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the hinge (7) is mounted to the panelling part (6) and to the flap (2) on opposing sides of a carrier layer (12).